

Acknowledgments

We gratefully acknowledge the funding from the State Justice Institute that made possible this report and the four Regional Conferences on Self-Represented Litigants held in California in 2001. We also thank the Foundation of the State Bar of California and the State Bar of California for their supplemental funding for the conferences.

The advisory committee for the conference is listed on page iv. The members' guidance and recommendations were invaluable both in developing the initial state action plan and in planning these conferences. They attended two full-day planning meetings and provided guidance on conference topics and faculty. Kate Sampson from the American Judicature Society was very gracious in sharing her experience with the national conference and allowing us to adapt that model. Cheryl Reynolds from the State Justice Institute was very helpful in planning the project and initially proposed the regional model for the conferences, which proved quite fruitful.

Mary Viviano and the staff of the Office of Legal Services, Access and Fairness Programs, were extremely helpful in obtaining speakers and participants from local bar associations as well as in staffing the conferences.

Special thanks are due to the team of presenters that traveled to all four of the conferences in six weeks. Deserving of a "crois de conference" are Bob Hawley, Deputy Executive Director of the State Bar; Mary Viviano, Director of Legal Services Outreach at the State Bar; Tina Rasnow and Carmen Ramirez from the Superior Court of Ventura County's Self-Help Legal Access Center; Sue Talia, private attorney and unbundling expert; Bob Cohen, Executive Director of the Legal Aid Society of Orange County; Harry Jacobs, Technology Consultant; and Dale Wells, Family Law Facilitator, Superior Court of Riverside County. Special thanks are also due to Dr. Bryan Borys, Superior Court of Los Angeles; Hon. Roderic Duncan (Ret.); Norma Castellanos-Perez, Superior Court of Tulare County; and Inga McElyea, Superior Court of Riverside County, each of whom made presentation at three of the conferences.

These conferences and the following action planning were a massive undertaking, and like so many of our projects at California's Administrative Office of the Courts, this involved a terrific team of staff from multiple divisions of the agency. More than 60 staff members made contributions that included conference services, coordinating airline reservations, copying binders, setting up audiovisual equipment and recording the sessions, registering participants, facilitating discussion groups and monitoring workshops, processing travel claims, and providing great advice. A few must be specifically recognized:

- Christine Copeland joined the AOC's staff to work on these conferences and other self-represented litigants projects and did an amazing job of pulling together 120

workshops with more than 200 speakers, coordinating conference calls, developing background information for the keynote speakers, assembling a fabulous set of materials, and handling varied conference logistics.

- Rowena Rogelio, the Administrative Coordinator for the project, handled the huge load of support tasks necessary for any conference, such as letters, rosters, name tags, and registration. She accomplished it all extremely well and with great humor, even though much of it was completed in her off hours while she served on jury duty.
- Deborah Chase wrote this analysis of the action plans. Her deep knowledge of services for self-represented litigants in courts, combined with her great skills in organizing and conceptualizing, have led to a rich and useful analysis.

Special thanks to all of those in the courts and their community partners who have dedicated so much time and energy to this project. I continue to be amazed at court staffs' creativity, hard work, and deep commitment to access to justice throughout the state of California. Their willingness to engage with their communities has been remarkable, and the vision they have developed is inspirational.

And finally, we extend undying admiration and thanks to California's Chief Justice Ronald M. George, Administrative Director of the Courts William C. Vickrey, and Center for Families, Children and the Courts Director Diane Nunn for their tremendous support, vision, and leadership of the project.

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